



Spring Creek High School in Elko, Nev. has sponsored annual student visits to INL for 16 years. Here, INL researcher Sera White explains geographical information systems and environmental databases to this year's seniors.

## Nevada high school sponsors 16 years' worth of student tours

by Reuel Smith, *INL Communications*

For the past 16 years, high school physics teacher Jack Peavey has chaperoned a busload of students more than 300 miles to tour Idaho National Laboratory. The Elko, Nev., Spring Creek High School teacher organizes the annual trips to help his advanced placement students learn more about the national laboratory system and nuclear energy, and to encourage them to pursue math and science in college.

"Oh, this is such a good experience for our students," said Peavey during a recent visit with 14 high school seniors and four faculty members. "They learn what it's like to work in a professional environment and have their minds opened to the impact that national laboratory research can have."

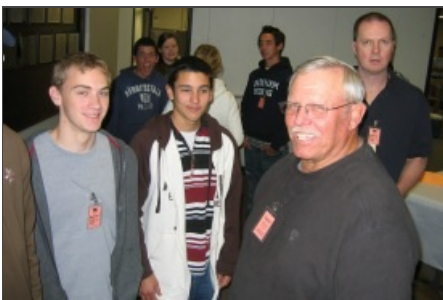
"In fact, one of our students that visited INL several years ago ultimately decided to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to study nuclear engineering," said Peavey. "He graduated this year, and is now doing graduate work at MIT!"

For most of these years, INL Tour Guide Don Miley has worked with the high school to plan visits to new and different research labs.

"The folks at Spring Creek are one of my favorite groups because they dedicate a two-day block of time for their students to visit INL's programs across [desert] Site and in-town facilities," said Miley. "They really care that their students be inspired by what they hear and see at INL."



**INL molecular biologist Anita Gianotto explains research to find industrial uses for microbes thriving in harsh environments.**



**Chaperone Jack Peavey, who retired from Spring Creek High School last year, enjoys hearing what students learn during their tours of INL Research Center labs.**

Prior to teaching in Nevada, Peavey taught high school in Jerome, Idaho — where he learned the value of having students interact with INL researchers during three INL field trips.

"Those educational field trips were the beginning of something quite remarkable," said Peavey. "So, when I arrived in Elko, I wanted my students to experience INL's special role within the national laboratory system."

"Since these kids are from Nevada, their perceptions of nuclear and environmental concerns have been shaped by what they have heard from people they know," he said. "And, after visiting INL, especially the [Advanced Test Reactor], it's interesting that many of their fears about things nuclear and radioactive have been calmed to a certain extent."

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